



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Brian Cox

**Plymouth Accountant Indicted for Offering a "Too Good To Be True"
Solution to Small Business Owners' IRS Debt**

The owner of CFO Solutions, Inc., Plymouth Michigan was arrested in the metropolitan Chicago area as the result of an indictment charging him with 42 counts of filling false claims and 11 counts of preparing false tax documents, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

Named in the indictment was Brian Cox, age 48, of Downers Grove, Illinois, formerly of Salem Township, Michigan.

Cox targeted small businesses owners who were involved in tax disputes with the IRS. Cox approached the owners and officers of these companies who had tax liens or were

participating in a repayment plan with the IRS and offered the ability to reduce or eliminate their company tax obligations and get a tax refund. Cox told the small businesses owners that he could "reclassify" the wages and income paid to them as the repayment of loans, thereby eliminating the companies' tax obligations to the IRS. Cox assured the owners and officers that his plan was legal, which it was not, and usually charged between \$2,000 and \$7,000 for his services.

According to the indictment, Cox an accountant and tax preparer, devised a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service by preparing and filing false and fictitious tax documents which indicated that previously filed tax records were incorrect, and that tax refunds were now due, when in fact no refund was due. In some cases, Cox had the owners signed tax forms in blank and later added false figure and statements revising the company's true and correct financial condition. Some of the false information included reclassifying wages and income as the repayment of owner/officer loans and statements that prior reported funds were made in error.

From November 2000 through April 2001, Cox filed false claims for tax refunds totaling over \$195,000 for various small business owners.

Aouate warns taxpayers, "There are always people who target and take advantage of individuals in a venerable position. Don't compound your tax problems by buying into a too good to be true solution, because no matter who prepares your tax forms, you are ultimately responsible for the financial burden left behind."

The Criminal Investigation Division is interested in talking to any individuals who may have used Cox's services in dealing with the IRS. Please contact Special Agent Stephen Moore at 313-234-2410 with any information. A conviction of filling false claims carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each count. A conviction of preparing false tax documents carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a \$250,000

fine for each count.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Varner.